Number of Madarsas

2044. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA :

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA :

Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Madarsas in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, from 1997 to 2001 ;

(b) the financial assistance given to Madarsas during that period, State-wise and Union Territory-wise ;

(c) whether the Madarsas are established under the provisions of Article 30 (1) of the Constitution ;

(d) whether it is a fact that instead of teaching communal harmony, communal hatred is being taught in some of the Madarsas, particularly in border States ; and

(e) if so, Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scarcity of Children's Literature

†2045. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that children remain deprived of the Child Literature due to its scarcity and they remain ignorant of the culture and traditions of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to remove the short-coming ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Government has been taking a number of steps to boost, support and disseminate

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Children's literature in the country through bodies like National Book Trust, India (NBT), Sahitya Akademi, Publications Division, etc. A number of public and private publishers are also making valuable contribution to this cause.

NBT, a premier organization set up by the Government, is operating children specific schemes like Nehru Bal Pustakalaya (NBT) and National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL). The NBP series of publications of NBT aims at creating a treasure house of enjoyable and informative literature, which children can read at their own initiative. It promotes national integration by providing common reading material on a wide range of subjects in their mother tongue to children all over India. The NCCL promotes publication of childrens's literature. To facilitate awareness about children's literature, NCCL provides information to guardians, teachers, educationists and planners. In the reference library of the Centre, there are about ten thousands books in 14 Indian languages and 20 foreign languages. NCCL has started readers Clubs' movement to make reading interesting and to make books available for all especially children. The Centre has established about 21,000 readers' Clubs in all the States of the country so far. Children are major beneficiaries of these Clubs.

Distric Primary Education Programme (DPEP) supports school libraries. Mobile book van tours have been conducted in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with NBT. NBT on its own also operates Mobile Exhibition-cum-Sales Vans to make books available to different areas in the country in the States of Delhi, Orissa, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.

Gujarat Districts under DPEP

2046. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts of Gujarat brought under District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) ;

(b) the details of funds received and utilized from external sources for the programme during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, till date ;

(c) the total amount allocated and spent in the State during the above period ;

(d) the achievements made under the programme; and

(e) whether any case of bungling has come into the notice of the Central Government ?